

MARVEL
COMICS




APR
#4

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

THE AMAZING

SPIDER-MAN



A full-page comic book illustration. Spider-Man is shown falling through a large, jagged hole in a blue sky. He is in a crouched, falling position, with his arms and legs spread out. The sky is filled with bright orange and yellow flames and fire. Large, grey, rectangular blocks of rock are falling from the sky around him. The scene is dynamic, with motion lines suggesting a fast fall. Spider-Man's iconic red and blue suit with white web patterns is clearly visible. Two speech bubbles contain text.

YOU KNOW...SOMETIMES
YOU JUMP OUT OF BED
IN THE MORNING, THROW
WATER ON YOUR FACE,
LOOK IN THE MIRROR
AND THINK...

...TODAY
IS GOING
TO BE A
GREAT
DAY!

STAN LEE
PRESENTS:

BETRAYALS

HOWARD MACKIE/JOHN BYRNE STORY & ART SCOTT HANNA INKS
GREGORY WRIGHT COLORS RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT LETTERS
RALPH MACCHIO EDITOR BOB HARRAS CHIEF

ISN'T IT AMAZING
JUST HOW WRONG
YOU CAN BE?

MISTER FANTASTIC,
THE INVISIBLE WOMAN,
THE THING AND THE
HUMAN TORCH...

...COLLECTIVELY
KNOWN AS THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR--

-- THE GREATEST
TEAM OF ADVENTURERS
WHO EVER GOT THEIR
POWERS FROM A
COSMIC RAY ACCIDENT
IN SPACE.

THE TRAPSTER AND THE
SANDMAN -- HALF OF WHAT
USED TO BE THE F.F.'S
GREATEST ENEMIES --
THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR!

HOW DID YOURS TRULY
WIND UP IN THE MIDDLE
OF A BATTLE ROYAL
WITH THEM ALL?

WELL, I'LL TELL YOU.
IT ALL BEGAN A
FEW HOURS AGO...





...I DECIDED IT WAS TIME TO PAY A VISIT TO MY OLD BUDDY THE HUMAN TORCH, AND REED RICHARDS WANTED TO MAKE SURE I WAS WHO I SAID I WAS...

REED! REALLY! I SWEAR IT'S ME!

YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN!

I SEE THAT NOW, BUT YOU CAN'T BLAME ME FOR WANTING TO MAKE SURE.

WHAT WITH YOUR RECENT MONTHS LONG DISAPPEARANCE -

-- AND YOUR HISTORY OF INVOLVEMENT WITH CLONES, DOPPELGANGERS AND ARTIFICIAL CONSTRUCTS...

...ANYWAY, YOU CAN FEEL FREE TO GET DOWN ANY TIME YOU WANT TO.

SHEESH! THE THINGS A GUY'S GOTTA DO JUST TO GET TOGETHER WITH AN OLD PAL!

THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT HE PUTS US THROUGH FOR OUR ANNUAL PHYSICAL, CHUM! THE PROBES ALONE GIVE ME NIGHTMARES FOR WEEKS!

WELCOME BACK, SPIDER-MAN. YOU HAVE BEEN MISSED.

THANK YOU, MRS. RICHARDS. I APPRECIATE IT!

YOU STILL GIVIN' THE TORCH THAT OLD "ANNUAL PHYSICAL EXAM" ROUTINE, STRETCH?

IT SEEMS TO KEEP HIM HUMBLE, BEN...SORT OF.





WHAT'S THE SCOOP, REED?

A MOMENT, JOHNNY. I'VE JUST ABOUT...

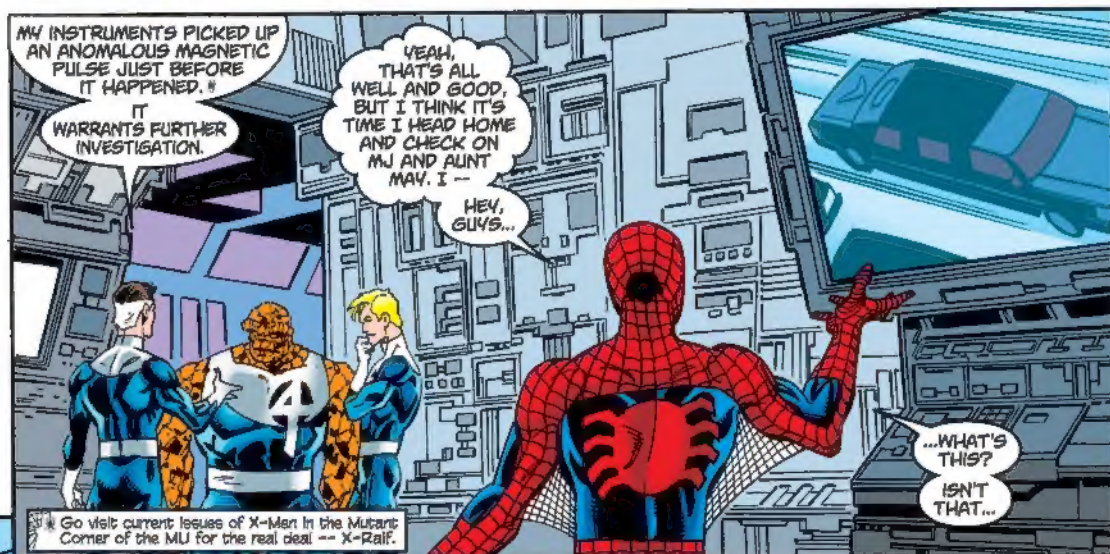
...GOT IT!

WE'VE GOT AUXILIARY POWER ON LINE, BUT...



...THE REST OF NEW YORK DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE SO LUCKY.

THE BLACKOUT APPEARS TO BE CONFINED TO THE CITY. THIS ISN'T THE FIRST ONE THAT'S OCCURRED RECENTLY, EITHER.



MY INSTRUMENTS PICKED UP AN ANOMALOUS MAGNETIC PULSE JUST BEFORE IT HAPPENED. #

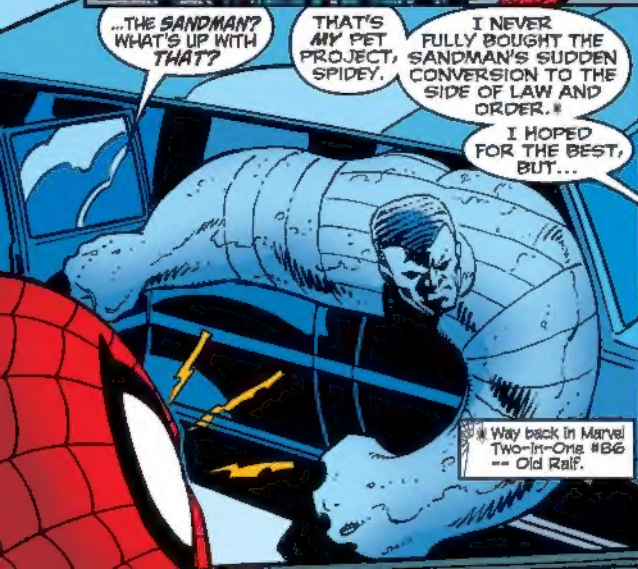
IT WARRANTS FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

YEAH, THAT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD, BUT I THINK IT'S TIME I HEAD HOME AND CHECK ON MJ AND AUNT MAY. I --

HEY, GUYS...

...WHAT'S THIS?
ISN'T THAT...

* Go visit current issues of X-Men in the Mutant Corner of the MU for the real deal -- X-Ralf.



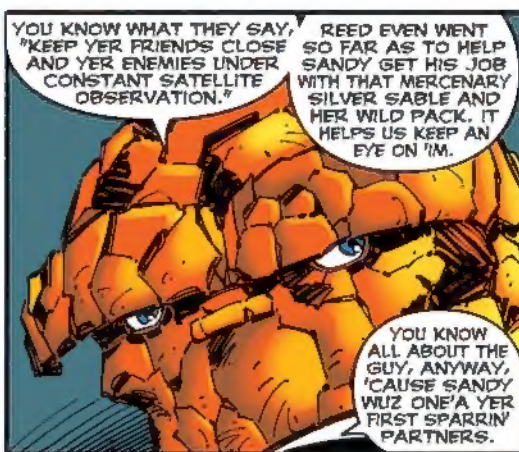
...THE SANDMAN? WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?

THAT'S MY PET PROJECT, SPIDEY.

I NEVER FULLY BOUGHT THE SANDMAN'S SUDDEN CONVERSION TO THE SIDE OF LAW AND ORDER. #

I HOPED FOR THE BEST, BUT...

* Way back in Marvel Two-In-One #86 -- Old Ralf.



YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, "KEEP YER FRIENDS CLOSE AND YER ENEMIES UNDER CONSTANT SATELLITE OBSERVATION."

REED EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO HELP SANDY GET HIS JOB WITH THAT MERCENARY SILVER SABLE AND HER WILD PACK. IT HELPS US KEEP AN EYE ON 'IM.

YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THE GUY, ANYWAY, 'CAUSE SANDY WUZ ONE'A YER FIRST SPARRIN PARTNERS.

MEANWHILE...

I DON'T
KNOW, **SENATOR**
WARD...

...I DON'T
LIKE THE IDEA
OF US STANDIN'
AROUND IN THIS
DARK HOTEL
LOBBY.

IT LEAVES YOU
WAY TOO OPEN FOR
ANY NUT WITH THOUGHTS
OF MAKIN' HIMSELF A NAME BY
OFFIN' ONE OF THE FRONT-
RUNNERS IN THE NEXT
PRESIDENTIAL
RACE!

WHAT DO
YOU THINK
WE SHOULD DO
THEN, MR.
SANDMAN?

WELL, I
KNOW YOUR SUITE
IS UP NEAR THE ROOF,
AND THE ELEVATORS
ARE DOWN,
BUT...

...IF YOUR
UP FOR A HIKE...
I SAY WE TAKE
THE STAIRS!

AS LONG
AS YOU'RE WATCHING
MY BACK...I COULD STAND
THE EXERCISE.

THAT'S WHAT I'M
GETTING PAID FOR
SENATOR.
TO
WATCH
YOU REAL
CLOSE.

ALL PART
OF WHAT YOU
GET WHEN YOU HIRE
ONE OF THE **WILD PACK**
AS YOUR OWN PERSONAL
BODYGUARD!

1 SHORT TIME LATER...

PARK AVE

NO! I'M FINE! I WAS JUST CONCERNED FOR YOU AND AUNT MAY! I WAS DOWNTOWN VISITING SOME OLD FRIENDS. I FIGURE IF EVERYTHING GOES RIGHT... I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SWING HOME IN HALF AN HOUR.



PETER, COULD YOU DO ME A FAVOR? AUNT MAY AND I ARE FINE AND SNUG IN THE APARTMENT, BUT --

IT'S SO DARK DOWN THERE, MARY JANE. TELL PETER TO HURRY HOME, DEAR.



I JUST GOT OFF THE PHONE WITH JILL. SHE'S STUCK IN THE LOBBY OF THE PLAZA. SHE SOUNDED REALLY FREAKED. SOMETHING ABOUT A CHILDHOOD INCIDENT AND THE DARK...

SINCE YOU'VE GOT TO CRUISE RIGHT BY THERE TO GET HOME... I WAS HOPING...



I'LL CHECK ON HER. SHE'LL BE FINE.

I LOVE YOU, PETER.

I LOVE YOU TOO.



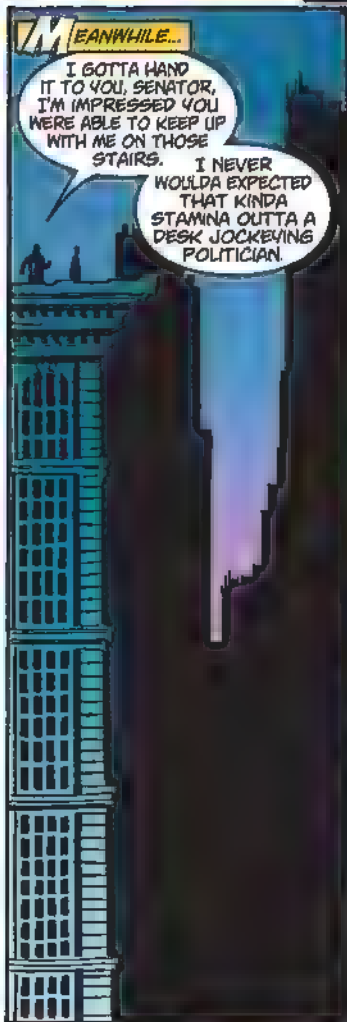
EVEN IF I PROVE IT TO YOU BY NOT TELLING YOU THAT I'VE BECOME SPIDER-MAN AGAIN, AFTER THE GIRL WHO WAS IMPERSONATING ME QUIT.

BUT IT'S NOT EXACTLY LIKE LYING... IS IT?









ER...NO...I...
AH--



BUT
WE AREN'T
ALL WHAT WE
APPEAR TO BE,
DON'T YOU
THINK?

BESIDES,
I WASN'T
ALWAYS STUCK
BEHIND A
DESK.

AND
SOMETIMES
I DO LONG
FOR THE
DAYS OF MY
YOUTH.

OH,
WELL...

BUT YOU
TELL ME ABOUT
YOU, SIR.

HOW DO
YOU GO FROM
BATTLING WITH
THE LIKES OF
SPIDER-MAN AND
THE FANTASTIC
FOUR...YOU WERE
PART OF THE
FRIGHTFUL FOUR,
WEREN'T
YOU...

...TO HAVING
ENOUGH SECURITY
CLEARANCE TO PULL AN
ASSIGNMENT LIKE
THIS ONE?

DON'T YOU
EVER LONG FOR
THE BAD OLD
DAYS?

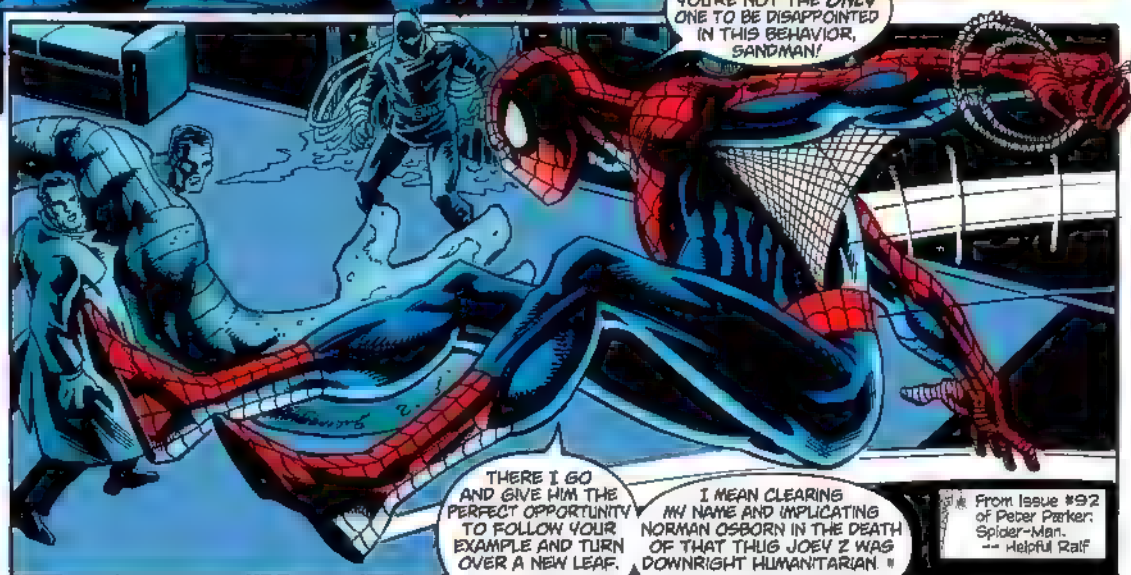
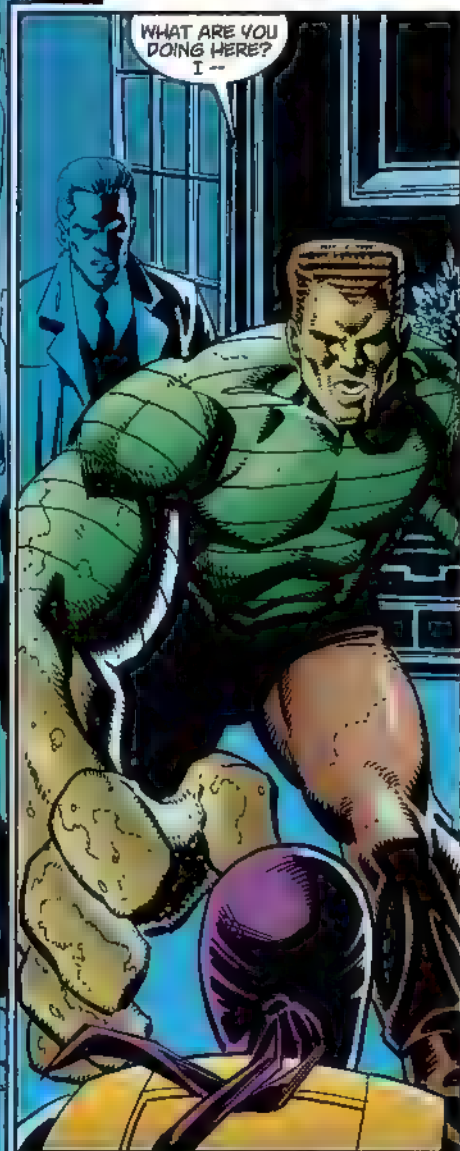


— I THINK
I HEARD A
NOISE IN THE
APARTMENT
STAY
HERE WHILE
I CHECK
ON IT.



WHAT
THE -- ? THE DOOR'S
MELTING!
IT'S --







WELL,
I GOT
OVER
IT!

YOU
SHOULD,
TOO!



I WOULD
HAVE GONE TO
BAT FOR YOU,
TRAPSTER!

I JUST
THOUGHT MAYBE...
JUST MAYBE... YOU
HAD IT IN YOU TO DO
YOUR TIME FOR JOEY
Z'S DEATH -- BUT

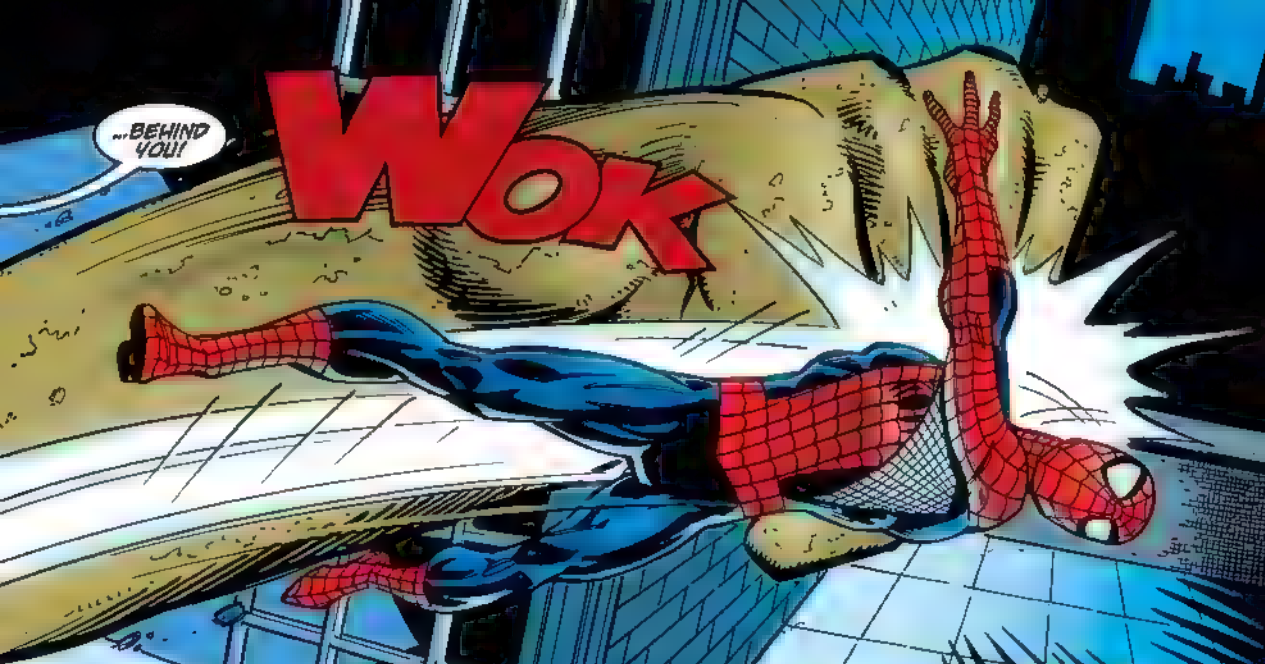
NO!



OKAY,
SANDY, YOU HIT
HIM HIGH...

...AND
I'LL HIT HIM
LOW!

RIGHT
BEHIND YOU, WALL-
CRAWLER!
RIGHT...



...BEHIND YOU!

WOK



OR SHOULD I
CALL YOU...
... WALL
FALLER?

GOTCHA!

CAN'T...
BREATHE...

...PUNCH
TOOK THE
WIND... OUT
OF... ME!

CAN'T...
GET OFF A...
WEB LINE...
GOING TO...



REST
EASY, SPIDER-
MAN, YOU'RE
SAFE.

NOW
BREATHE
SLOW AND
DEEP.

THAT'S IT...
YOUR BREATH
SEEMS TO BE
NORMALIZING.

WHOA! I
DONT REMEMBER
THE LAST TIME I
WAS HIT THAT
HARD!

I
DONT
GET IT!

DONT FEEL
TOO BADLY. REMEMBER
IT TOOK THE FOUR OF
US TO BRING DOWN THE
SANDMAN ON MORE
THAN ONE
OCCASION.

I THOUGHT
HE WAS ONE OF...WELL...
ONE OF US!

I MEAN
HE WAS A RESERVE
AVENGER AND EVERYTHING!

I CONTACTED
SILVER SABLE AND LEARNED
THAT THIS OPERATION IS
COMPLETELY UNSANCTIONED.
THE WILD PACK WAS NEVER
CONTACTED TO ACT AS
BODYGUARDS FOR
SENATOR WARD.

WHAT A
CREEP!

YOU KNOW,
EVEN THOUGH I
NEVER TRUSTED
THE GUY... I WANTED
TO BELIEVE. I
REALLY DID!

TO THINK
I HAD A BEER
WITH THE BUM!
GAVE 'IM
A CHANCE TO
TURN HIMSELF
IN.

WHY I
OUGHTTA...!

ENOUGH,
BEN! WE'VE
GOT TO FILL
SPIDER-MAN
IN ON OUR
PLAN!

YOU MORON!

IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN LIKE THIS!

I ONLY AGREED TO SET UP THE SENATOR! TO MAKE SURE YOU HAD A CLEAR SHOT!

YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO IMPLICATE ME!

YOU THINK I TRIED GOIN' STRAIGHT -- GOT A PRESIDENTIAL PARDON ONLY TO BLOW IT OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!

MAYBE I HAVE MY OWN AGENDA -- AN THAT INCLUDES GOIN' BAD ON MY TERMS -- NOT YOURS!

OOOH! SOUNDS MIGHTY IMPRESSIVE!

WHAT? MAYBE YOU WERE PLANNING ON TAKING OVER THE WORLD?

TALK ABOUT DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR!

YOU WEREN'T CUT OUT FOR BEING A GOOD GUY -- FACE IT!

NOW WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO, WHETHER YOU LIKE THE TIMING OR NOT!

WHEN WE'RE DONE YOU CAN TAKE IT UP WITH THE BOSS!

BOSS! WHAT BOSS? I DON'T HAVE ANY B --

SHUT UP!

WHERE DID HE GO, YOU JERK?

WHAT?

THE SENATOR! HE'S GONE! AND IF WE DON'T FIND HIM...





NOW
I'VE GOT
TO KILL THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR, TOO!

GOOD LUCK
WITH THAT ONE,
YOU CREEP! WE'RE
JUST A LITTLE
TOUGHER'N OUR
TOYS, SANDBAG!



HANG ON,
BEN, YOU AND
I CAN RIDE TO
THE ROOF ON
AN INVISIBLE
FORCE
SLED!

RIGHT
BEHIND YOU,
SUZIE!

JUST GET
ME CLOSE
ENOUGH TO GET
HOLD OF THAT
LYING, NO GOOD,
SACK 'A SAND!



OOH. OOH.
OOH.
STOP.
PLEASE.

STOP.
YOU
ARE HURTING
ME.

GET OVER
IT, GRIMM! YOU
CAN'T LAY A HAND
ON ME!
NEVER
COULD.



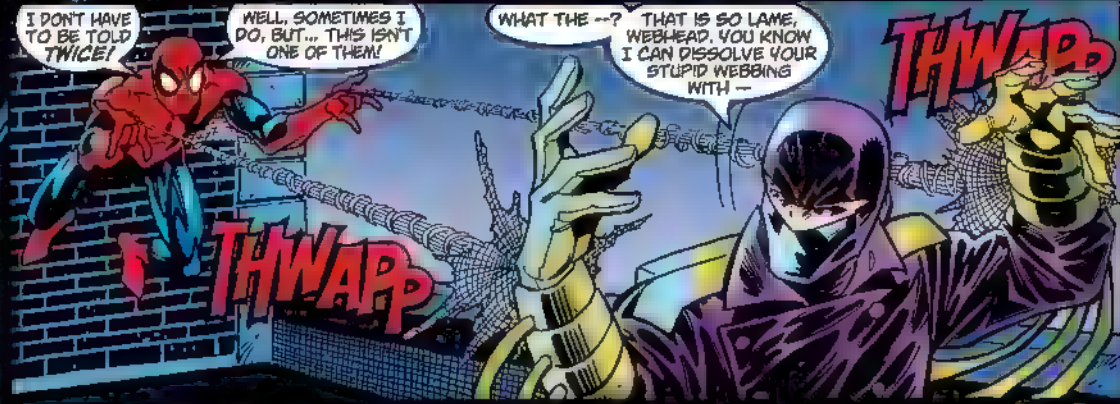
AND IN
A MINUTE I'M
GONNA STICK ONE
OF MY ARMS DOWN
YOUR THROAT
AND THEN...
...WE'LL SEE
HOW WELL THE
MIGHTY THING DOES
WHEN HIS LUNGS ARE
FILLED WITH
SAND!



NOW! JUST AS
WE PLANNED.

READY WHEN YOU
ARE, BOSS!

NOW
SPIDER-MAN!
HIT HIM!



I DON'T HAVE
TO BE TOLD
TWICE!

WELL, SOMETIMES I
DO, BUT... THIS ISN'T
ONE OF THEM!

WHAT THE --? THAT IS SO LAME,
WEBHEAD. YOU KNOW
I CAN DISSOLVE YOUR
STUPID WEBBING
WITH --

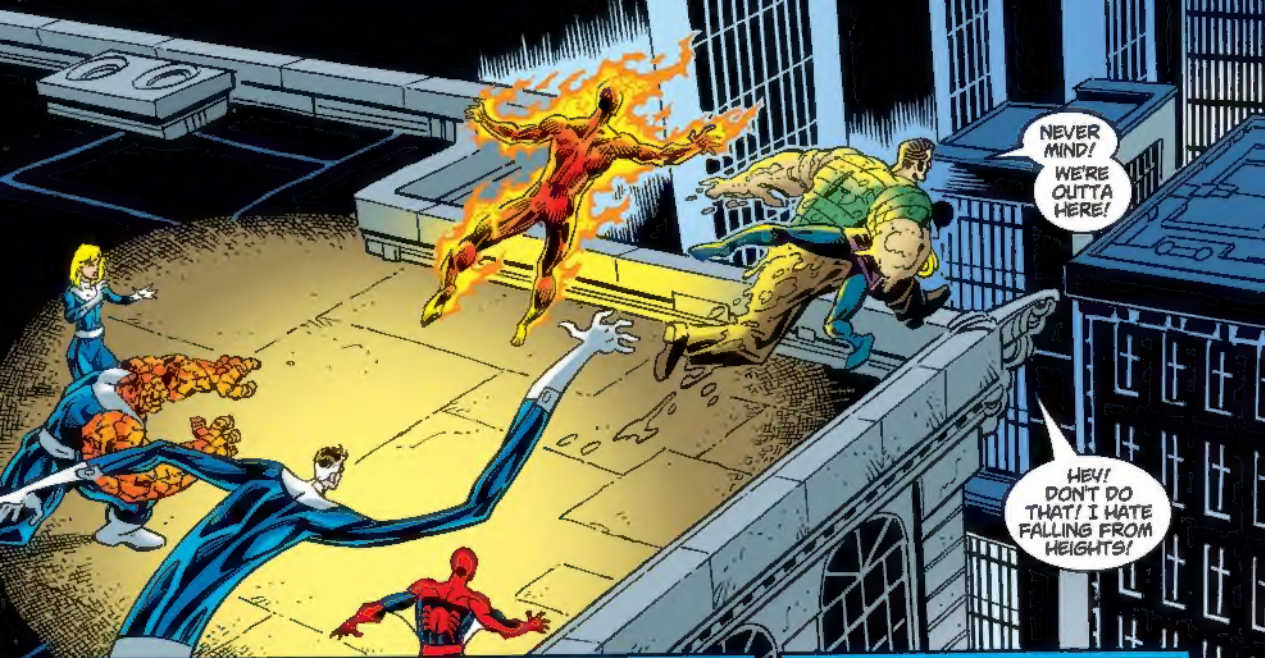
THWAPP

THWAPP



Yuck!





NEVER MIND!
WE'RE OUTTA HERE!

HEY! DON'T DO THAT! I HATE FALLING FROM HEIGHTS!



I'VE GOT THEM!



THEY'RE GONE. HOW COULD THEY...?

I HAVE NO IDEA!

THEY'VE GOT TO HAVE HAD AID IN THEIR GET AWAY.

I DOUBT EITHER OF THEM IS CAPABLE OF HAVING PLANNED SUCH AN ASSAULT, OR SUBSEQUENT ESCAPE, ON THEIR OWN. AND I DON'T KNOW WHO MAY HAVE HELPED THEM.

RIGHT NOW, WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE OUR LEAVE TO PREPARE FOR A MIDNIGHT MEETING ATOP OUR OLD SKYSCRAPER HEADQUARTERS -- FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA.

WELL, WHEN YA GOTTA GO... BUT THIS WAS FUN, FOLKS. NOW I THINK I'M GONNA GO HOME AND GET ALL THE SAND OUT OF MY SHORTS.

Check out issues 13-15 of the F.F.'s own mag for details. It's great! — Super-Fan Ralf.

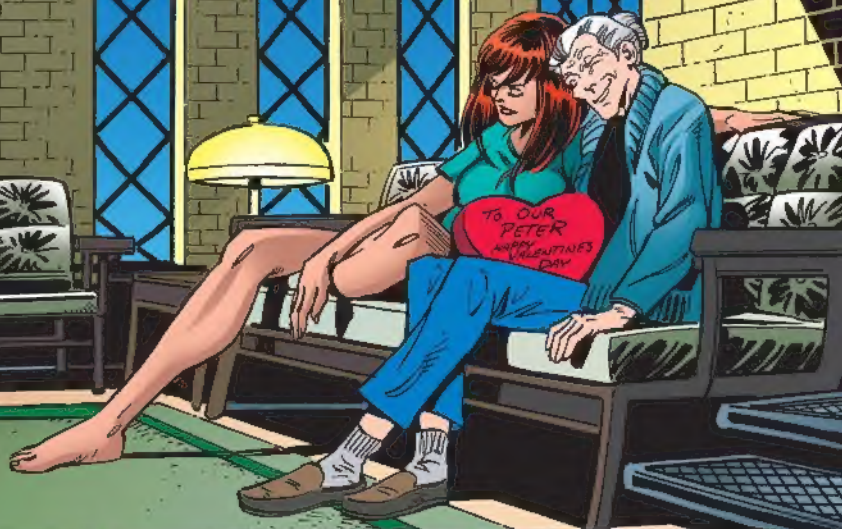


SOMETIME LATER, AFTER POWER IS RESTORED TO THE CITY, PETER PARKER AND JILL STACY RETURN TO HIS APARTMENT...

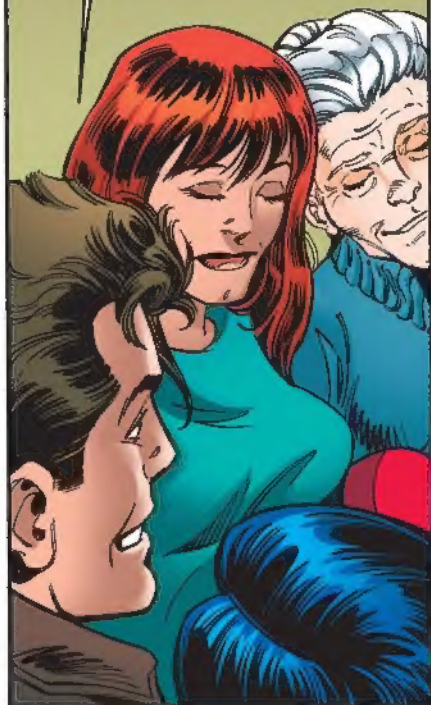
WELL, WILL YOU LOOK AT THIS!

GEEZ! I DON'T HAVE THE HEART TO WAKE THEM!

HEART!



I COMPLETELY FORGOT TODAY WAS VALENTINE'S DAY!
BUT MY TWO GIRLS DIDN'T.



SORRY YOU HAD SUCH A HORRIBLE VALENTINE'S DAY, JILL.

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF, PETER. THIS WAS THE BEST ONE I'VE EVER HAD!



SMACK





A ND... AND NOW, MY FELLOW CITIZENS, THE CRISIS IS OVER.

EVEN AS I SPEAK TO YOU, GOVERNMENT AGENTS ARE INVESTIGATING EXACTLY HOW A SCENARIO SUCH AS THIS COULD HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO OCCUR.



I ASSURE YOU THAT, UPON MY RETURN TO WASHINGTON, THERE WILL BE A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION LAUNCHED INTO THIS MATTER.

NOW, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME... IT HAS BEEN A LONG DAY FOR ALL OF US.



HELLO.

YOU! WHAT ARE YOU... INSANE?!

I WAS ALMOST KILLED BY THOSE MADMEN OF YOURS!

THAT WAS NOT PART OF THE DEAL!



YOU INSISTED THAT THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT APPEAR AUTHENTIC, MY GOOD SENATOR.

YOU MUST BE EVER THE HERO IN THE PUBLIC EYE.

WE CAN'T HAVE ANYONE LOOKING TOO CLOSELY INTO THAT BACKGROUND OF YOURS... CAN WE?

LEAVE YOURSELF IN THE WIZARD'S HANDS AND NO ONE WILL LEARN THE TRUTH, MY FRIEND!

NO ONE!

FOR MORE ON SENATOR WARD, AND HIS ALLIANCE WITH THE WIZARD CHECK OUT AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #1 ON SALE IN LATE APRIL!

NEXT ISSUE: SPIDER-WOMEN! THE PLACE IS CRAWLING WITH 'EM!